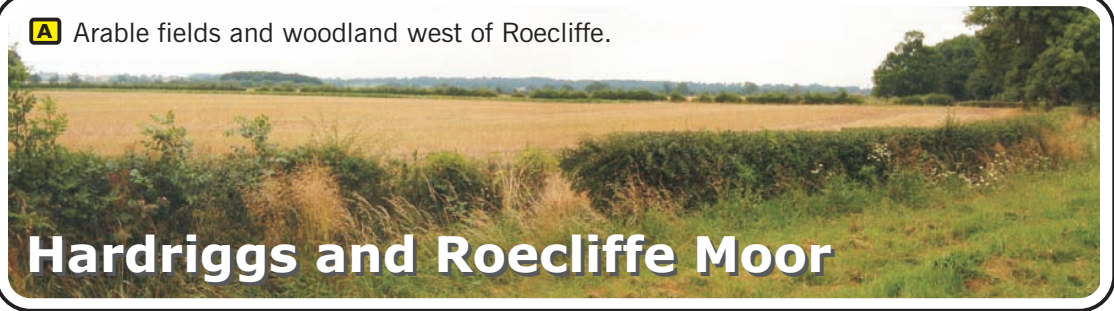


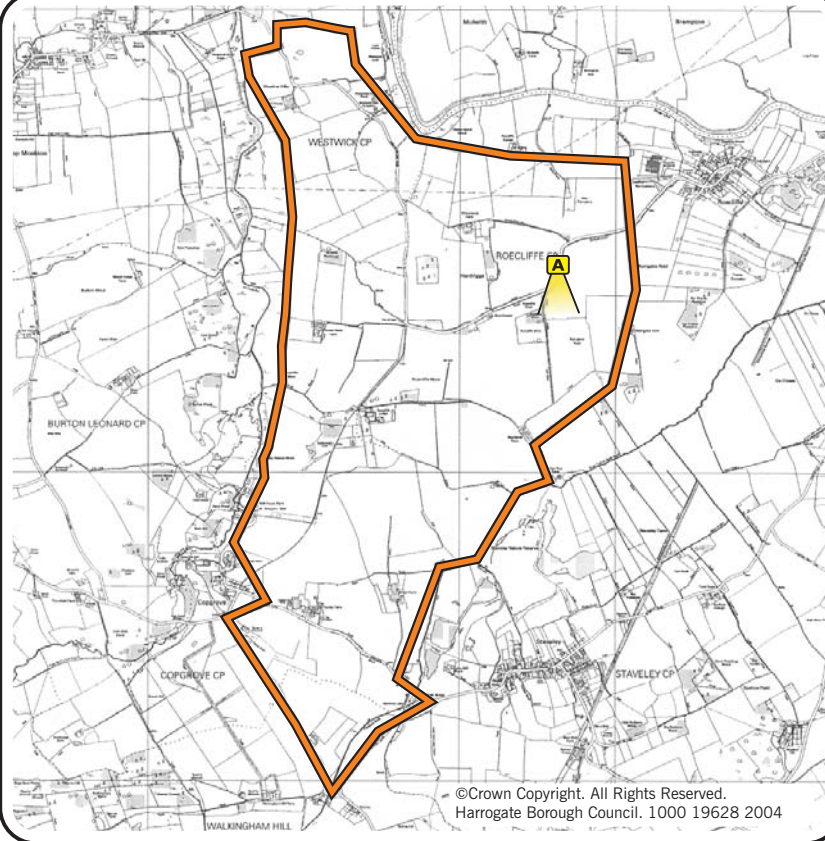
AREA 71

Approved
Feb 2004

A Arable fields and woodland west of Roecliffe.



Hardriggs and Roecliffe Moor



HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

— Area boundary*
 Camera location & direction



* NB Due to the nature of landform, surface treatment and soil/geology composition Character area boundaries cannot be delineated precisely and should be considered "transitional".



Description

This large-scale area covers 7 km² of land and lies adjacent to Character Area 72: Holbeck Valley Bottom south of Newby Hall in the eastern half of Harrogate District.

It is a uniform landscape of muted arable fields managed for cereal production plus one or two improved grassland fields. Fields are large and bound by hedges that vary in height and condition. Some boundaries have disappeared altogether in places, resulting in an open landscape with extensive views dispersed between blocks of woodland. There are few individual trees, except for those that line the roadsides and cluster around built form. Farmsteads are sprawling with large farm buildings constructed in modern materials that can look intrusive in the landscape. Views of large-scale storage sheds west of Boroughbridge and the A1(M) corridor impact on character and views from the area. Straight-edged conifer plantations can also look harsh in the context of the sloping landform of this rural area. Large-scale development, out of context with the traditional land use, has also had an impact on this otherwise attractive, intensively-farmed landscape.

Key Characteristics

Geology, soils and drainage

- Sherwood sandstone solid geology overlain with silt and clay drift geology.
- Slowly-permeable, seasonally-waterlogged, clayey and fine loamy surface water gley soils.

Landform and drainage pattern

- Flat landform sloping between 40m AOD in the south and 25m AOD in the north.
- Occaney Beck and Sike Drain plus network of ditches that drain the farmland to Holbeck in the west and the River Ure to the north.

Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

- Land managed for arable production plus a few improved grassland fields, grade 3 agricultural land.
- Large fields bound by hedges of various height and condition. Some have disappeared.
- Several deciduous woodland blocks and new mixed plantation.

Key Characteristics (Cont'd)

- Individual trees along boundaries and scattered within fields indicating missing field boundaries.

Settlement, built environment and communications

- No major settlement just a few scattered farmsteads and houses.
- Local building materials include red brick and red or grey tiles and cobbles.
- Two minor roads access the area.
- Moderate network of public footpaths.

Sensitivities & Pressures

- This relatively flat sloping landscape is sensitive to inappropriate development. At the Jubilee Mills site development has had a considerable impact on landscape character in the immediate vicinity of the site and no attempt has been made to integrate the development with the landscape. This detracts from the attractiveness of the area.
- Pressure for the expansion of existing industrial sites is likely to continue to the detriment of landscape character.
- Tree and woodland cover is susceptible to neglect.

Guidelines

Aim: To integrate development.

- Promote tree and woodland planting to filter views of development that does not respect local landform and landscape pattern. Woodland, tree and hedge planting can be used to define acceptable development limits.
- New development should not be permitted if natural landform is not respected in the design.
- All new development proposals require a landscape scheme as an integral part of the planning application to ensure impact on landscape character is fully mitigated.
- Development, which requires further upgrading of roads, is not acceptable in this Character Area not noted for its road network.

Aim: To enhance the landscape pattern and diversity of landscape texture.

- Promote the maintenance and restoration of native hedges and hedgerow trees.
- Encourage the planting of small woodland blocks to link with existing woodland and improve wildlife corridors through the area.
- Promote the management of existing coniferous woodland to introduce a deciduous woodland edge and better integrate the woodland with the landscape.



B Jubilee Mills.